Howdy!

Welcome to the conference! So much has happened since our last AgriLife conference in January 2015 — on our Texas A&M University campus and at all of our extension, research, and service locations across the state. This year, TVMDL will celebrate its 50th anniversary and hold the grand opening of its new College Station laboratory. The bright, new, state-of-the-art facility will help TVMDL better serve its clients statewide. We also look forward to the summer 2017 completion of the new Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecological Sciences Building, the fourth building in the Agriculture and Life Sciences Complex. This LEED Silver-certified green building will truly “bring the wild to West Campus!” In Dallas, the new Research and Extension Center is making great progress as well. I am also excited about the upcoming showcase for AgriLife on campus, The Gardens at Texas A&M University. We broke ground last summer and phase one, the Leach Teaching Gardens, is scheduled for completion by early 2018.

These are just a few of the many ways that Texas A&M AgriLife is looking to the future. Our agencies and college have and continue to be a source of hope and opportunity to Texans and people around the nation and world. All we have achieved is a credit to the constant innovation from you and your teams. Year after year, Texas A&M AgriLife gets better because of your passion and tenacity for what we can accomplish. As always, the growth and success of our agencies and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences depends on the talent, loyalty, and hard work of our employees, and I thank each of you for your dedicated service.

Mark

Dr. Mark A. Hussey
Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences
MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Plenary Session, 1:30 p.m.
Rudder Theatre
- TVMDL 50th Anniversary Address
- Vice Chancellor’s Address
- Keynote Speaker
- Awards Ceremony

AgriLife Reception, 5:30 p.m.
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Research and Extension Joint General Session, 8:30 a.m.
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300 A & B
- Things to Know Before You Fly: Operating UAVs as an AgriLife Employee, 8:30 a.m.
- State of the Agency Addresses, 9:30 a.m.
- Center for Global Health and Innovation Grand Opening Announcement, 10:00 a.m.
- Awards Ceremony, 11:00 a.m.

Awards Luncheon (Research & Extension Only), 12:00 p.m.
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300 C, D & E

Concurrent Sessions and Meetings 1, see p. 8
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences General Session, 8:15 a.m.
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300 A & B

Panel on Engaging Pedagogy for Critical Thinking, 9:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions and Meetings 2, see p. 10

Employee Development Symposium, Day One, 12:30 p.m.
Koldus 110/111

Welcome Luncheon and Keynote Speaker
Sessions & Presentations, see p. 12

Developing and Delivering Your Message: Faculty and Employee Communication Training
(Invitation Only), 1:30 p.m., Rudder 504

Foundations of Fundraising, 2:00 p.m., Rudder 510

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Employee Development Symposium, Day Two, 8:00 a.m.
Koldus 110/111

Sessions & Presentations, see p. 13

Building Key

AGLS–Agriculture and Life Sciences Building, 600 John Kimbrough Blvd.
AgriLife Center–556 John Kimbrough Blvd.
AGSV–AgriLife Services Building, 578 John Kimbrough Blvd.
HEEP–Heep Center, 370 Olsen Blvd.
HFSB–Horticulture and Forest Sciences Building, 495 Horticulture Rd.
Koldus–Koldus Building, 400 Joe Routt Blvd.
MSC–Memorial Student Center, 275 Joe Routt Blvd.
Rudder Theatre–Second Floor, Rudder Theatre Complex, 401 Joe Routt Blvd.
Rudder–Rudder Tower, 401 Joe Routt Blvd.

For a complete conference schedule and maps, visit agrilife.org/conference/2017-conference-agenda/
MONDAY, JANUARY 9

10:00 a.m. **Conference Registration**  
Rudder Exhibit Hall

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. **Understanding Expectations of Promotion and Tenure**  
*Dr. David Reed, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*  
Rudder 401

1:30 p.m. **Texas A&M AgriLife Plenary Session**  
Rudder Theater  
Coordinators: Cady Auckerman, Michaela Catalena, Angel Futrell, Rebecca Hamilton  
TVMDL 50th Anniversary Address: Dr. Bruce Akey, MS, DVM, Director, Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory  
Vice Chancellor’s Address: Dr. Mark Hussey, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences

2:30 p.m. **Keynote Address: Mr. Rikin Gandhi, Chief Executive Officer, Digital Green**  
Mr. Gandhi’s interests include sustainable agriculture and technology for socioeconomic development. He received a master’s in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from MIT and a bachelor’s in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a licensed private pilot and received patents for linguistic search algorithms that he helped develop at Oracle. Mr. Gandhi ventured to rural India to start up a social enterprise to develop biofuels. He then joined Microsoft Research as a researcher in the Technology for Emerging Markets team that incubated Digital Green. Digital Green is now an independent, not-for-profit organization that works with more than 1.5 million farmers across South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, DFID, Google, and others.

3:30 p.m. **Break**  
Provided by Dinner Tonight – dinnertonight.tamu.edu
4:15 p.m.  
Awards Ceremony  
Emcee: Dr. William Dugas, Associate Vice Chancellor for Business and Strategic Operations; Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Partner in Philanthropy  
Vice Chancellor's Awards in Excellence  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: Extension in the City Awards

5:30 p.m.  
Texas A&M AgriLife Reception  
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Joint General Session  
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300 A & B  
Coordinators: Rosemary Schoenfeld, Lara Burhenn, Nancye Penn

8:30 a.m.  
Welcome  
Dr. Mark Hussey, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Things to Know Before You Fly: Operating UAVs as a Texas A&M AgriLife Employee  
Mr. Robert Avant, Program Director, Corporate Relations, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

9:30 a.m.  
State of the Agency Addresses  
Dr. Doug Steele, Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Dr. Craig Nessler, Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

10:00 a.m.  
Center for Global Health and Innovation Grand Opening Announcement

10:30 a.m.  
Break

11:00 a.m.  
Awards Ceremony  
Texas A&M AgriLife Research Faculty Fellows  
AgriLife Extension Distinguished County Agent Recognition  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Superior Service Awards  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Partnership Awards

12:00 p.m.  
Awards Luncheon (Research & Extension Only)  
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300 C, D & E
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS AND MEETINGS 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 1:00–2:30 p.m. | **Concepts to Increase Global Water Supplies**  
Dr. Anish Jantrania, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Blackland Research and Extension Center  
MSC 2404  
To reliably provide safe drinking water to cities, towns, communities, individual homes, and businesses during extreme climatic conditions such as drought and flooding, it is imperative to capture rainwater and runoff, reuse wastewater and storm water, and desalinate brackish groundwater locally. The focus of this workshop is to debate how to reliably increase the global water supplies through such concepts as better managing surface/groundwater sources, utilizing alternative water sources (i.e., rain and desalinated water), and improving water-use efficiency through reuse. Science-based research will be required to develop, deploy, operate, monitor, and maintain innovative yet reliable future water systems. Epidemiological and toxicological research is also needed to ensure the long-term safety and health of the public when reused water supplies are used to supplement natural water sources. This workshop team will deliver presentations on broad topics to be followed by group discussion with attention to both the technical challenges and public health issues needed to improve reliability of global water supplies for future generations and opportunities for research and demonstration projects on the RELLIS Campus. |
|              | **Grand Challenges Integrative Teams Updates: What Worked, What Didn’t**  
Dr. David Reed, Professor, Horticultural Sciences; Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Faculty Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Rudder 402 |
| 1:00–3:00 p.m. | **AgriLife Extension District Extension Directors/County Extension Directors (Invitation Only)**  
Rudder 410 |
|              | **AgriLife Extension Regional Program Leaders (Invitation Only)**  
Rudder 504 |
|              | **AgriLife Extension Associate Department Heads/Program Leaders (Invitation Only)**  
Rudder 510 |
| 1:00–5:00 p.m. | **AgriLife Extension Healthy South Texas Specialists (Invitation Only)**  
MSC 1400 |
|              | **AgriLife Extension District Office Managers (Invitation Only)**  
Rudder 404 |
1:30 p.m.  Center for Global Health & Innovation Open House
Meet center director Dr. Kerrie DeMarco and key leaders from corporate partner Philips. Open to all faculty and staff.
AGLS 5th Floor, Conference Room 517

1:30–3:00 p.m.  Agriculture Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) Semi-annual Meeting
Rudder 502

1:30–3:00 p.m.  Ending Global Malnutrition by 2030
Dr. Elsa Murano, Director, Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture
Rudder 701

3:00–5:00 p.m.  Forage Crops, Pastures, Forage-Animal Interface
Dr. Monte Rouquette, Texas A&M Regents Fellow and Professor, AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton
Rudder 302

3:30 p.m.  AgriLife Leadership Briefing and Reception (Invitation Only)
Coordinators: Cady Auckerman and Rebecca Hamilton
AgriLife Center

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences General Session
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300 A & B
Coordinator: Dr. Kim Dooley

Pedagogy Project
Supporting Transformational Learning

Innovative Pedagogy to Engage Learners in the College
Are you interested in increasing student motivation and retention, especially for first-time college students? Do you want to learn more about how to integrate instructional technologies to engage learners, even in a large lecture course? Do you want to know how to incorporate higher-order learning and critical thinking to help students become learners who can solve problems and transfer learning to new settings? Have you ever wondered how best to measure learning outcomes, especially for high-impact learning opportunities? If any of these topics interest you, you don't want to miss the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences General Session!
8:15 a.m.  Coffee and Pastries

8:30 a.m.  Welcome and Introduction of Program
Dr. Mark Hussey, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences
Dr. Kim Dooley, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

8:40–9:15 a.m.  To Engage and to Be Engaged: A Model Lesson
Dr. David Reed, Professor, Horticultural Sciences; Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Faculty Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

9:15 a.m.  Networking Break

9:30–10:30 a.m.  Panel on Engaging Pedagogy for Critical Thinking
Dr. Karen Beathard, Senior Lecturer, Nutrition and Food Science
Mr. Max “Dusty” Menzies, Assistant Lecturer, Agricultural Economics
Dr. Jim Petrick, Professor, Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences
Dr. Heather Wilkinson, Professor and Associate Department Head, Plant Pathology and Microbiology

10:30 a.m.  Networking Break

10:45–11:30 a.m.  Demonstration of Instructional Technology for Student Engagement
Dr. Sergio Capareda, Professor, Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Dr. Craig Coates, Instructional Associate Professor, Entomology

11:30 a.m.  Closing and Charge to the Attendees

CONCURRENT SESSIONS AND MEETINGS 2

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  Employee Development Symposium, Day One (See full schedule on page 12.)
AGSV 515, Koldus 110/111

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  AgriLife Extension Healthy South Texas Specialists (Invitation Only)
Rudder 404

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  AgriLife Extension DEAs/CEDs/RPLs (Invitation Only)
Bethancourt Ballroom, MSC 2300 D

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  AgriLife Extension District Office Managers (Invitation Only)
Rudder 302
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30–10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Maestro for Principal Investigators (PIs)</strong>&lt;br&gt;AGLS 111A &lt;br&gt;<em>Maestro is a Texas A&amp;M University System electronic system that supports investigators and sponsored projects administration. The first part of this training will introduce the Researcher Portal. This includes sponsored projects management, from proposal submission to award spending. We will review the proposal, projects, and account modules, with a Q&amp;A session to follow. A Maestro account is required. Please contact Tribbie Grimm-Sandner at <a href="mailto:tdsandner@ag.tamu.edu">tdsandner@ag.tamu.edu</a> to get your account set up. Training is open to faculty.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Statewide Vegetable Research Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Ada Szczepaniec, Assistant Professor, AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Amarillo&lt;br&gt;MSC 2403</td>
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<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>State Horticulture Program</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Dan Lineberger, Professor and Department Head, Horticultural Sciences&lt;br&gt;HFSB 102</td>
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<td>1:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Soil and Crop Sciences Annual Departmental Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;HEEP 101</td>
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<td>1:00–3:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Department of Poultry Science</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rudder 410</td>
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<td>1:30–4:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Developing and Delivering Your Message: Communication Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Invitation Only)&lt;br&gt;Jenifer Sarver, Principal, Sarver Strategies&lt;br&gt;Rudder 504&lt;br&gt;<em>Presented by the Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Advancement Office</em>&lt;br&gt;Whether you are speaking to a reporter with a television camera, to an audience of donors, or to business or community leaders, delivering a straightforward, effective message in a compelling and memorable way can be a challenge. In this session you will get top-line media and presentation skills training that will focus on the fundamentals of delivering an effective message, including developing clear content, ensuring effective body language, and learning techniques to stay on message no matter the situation. This hands-on training will be packed with real-life examples and practical tips that will help you more effectively communicate to the public on behalf of the university, your discipline, and your research. The skills discussed will be valuable, not just for media interviews but also for communicating to key stakeholders. The training will be split between instruction time, group discussion, and practice interviews.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30–5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Extension Updates</strong>&lt;br&gt;MSC 2403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2:00–3:00 p.m.  
**Foundations of Fundraising: Everything You Want to Know But Are Too Scared to Ask**  
Mark Klemm, Assistant Vice President for Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas A&M Foundation  
*Rudder 510*  
Whether you are on-campus or off-campus, faculty in the College or staff in an agency, researcher or regional director, fundraising can have a positive impact on your programs. Come learn the basics from the experts, and find out how the Texas A&M Foundation Development Office is here to help.

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 12**

8:00 a.m.–3:45 p.m. **Employee Development Symposium, Day Two** *(See schedule on pages 13-14.)*  
*Koldus 110/111, HFSB 119X*

1:00–5:00 p.m. **Association Analyses of Genotypes and Phenotypes Using GAPIT and TASSEL 5.0**  
Dr. Shichen Wang, Bioinformatics Scientist, Genomics and Bioinformatics Services, Texas A&M AgriLife Research  
Dr. Shuyu Liu, Assistant Professor, AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Amarillo  
*HEEP 440*

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**AgriLife Employee Development Symposium**

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**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11**

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. **Off-Campus Business Administrators Session** *(Invitation Only)*  
Texas A&M AgriLife Research  
*AGSV 515*

12:30–2:00 p.m. **Welcome Luncheon and Keynote Speaker**  
Christine Hollinden, CPSM  
Hollinden Marketers + Strategists, Houston, Texas  
*Koldus 110/111*

**Different Signals: Mastering the Art of Nonverbal Communication**  
*Relationships are the cornerstones of success, both personally and professionally. Research on human perceptions shows that the nonverbal elements in communication*
have a major impact on the interpretation of the information we convey. In this session, Christine Hollinden will help you elevate your awareness of nonverbal cues and master powerful techniques to improve understanding and strengthen client relationships.

2:15–5:00 p.m.  
**AgriLife Administrative Services Updates**  
*Koldus 110/111*  
- **Banking and Receivables Update**  
  Gwen Tucker  
  Updates and introductions, Banking and Receivables Team  
- **Risk and Compliance Q&A**  
  Lauren Schroeder and Risk and Compliance Team  
  After a quick update regarding export controls (based on the recent System audit), changes to Management Review Team, and records management, this time is intended to serve as a focus-group session soliciting customer feedback in the area of risk and compliance.  
- **Disbursements and Purchasing Update**  
  Shiao-Yen Ko, Kim Payne, Chris Chamberlain, DeeAnn Schneider, and Nicole Malain  
  BAM and FAMIS updates, an overview of the State of Texas Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program, how to locate HUB vendors, and utilizing Good Faith Effort. This session will also address the TIBH program, which administers the State of Texas State Use Program, including an overview of the statute, how the program works, mandatory reporting requirements, and changes to payment card processing.

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 12**

8:00–9:00 a.m.  
**Sponsored Research Services Updates and Introductions**  
*Koldus 110/111*  
Julie Bishop and SRS Team  
SRS will address hot topics in sponsored research, including process updates, functional realignment within SRS, and introduction of administration and staff, followed by Q&A.

**Contracts**  
*Koldus 110/111*  
Loree Lewis and AgriLife Contracts Team  
AgriLife Contracts will address the process for industry and commodity agreements, non-sponsored agreements, and real-estate leases and licenses, followed by Q&A.

9:05–10:00 a.m.  
**Property and Fleet**  
*Koldus 110/111*  
Jared Kotch and Property and Fleet Management Team  
Topics include annual inventory certifications, property with BAM, completing XA documents for ProCard purchases, and an update on Fleet.
10:30–11:10 a.m. **Human Resources Workday Presentation**  
**Koldus 110/111**  
**Jennifer Hobbs**  
*The Texas A&M University System is replacing its legacy mainframe payroll and human resource systems with Workday software. Presentation will be followed by a status update.*

11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. **Banking and Receivables**  
**Koldus 110/111**  
**Gwen Tucker**  
*Presentation will include Group iPayments, ACHs, and IDTs.*

1:30–2:30 p.m. **Basic Laserfiche User Training**  
**Koldus 110/111**  
**Bob Hensz and Alyce Hlavaty**  
*This session is designed for Laserfiche users of all stages. In this course, you will learn how to file documents efficiently and intuitively, work with digital documents, perform searches in Laserfiche, and scan and import documents. You will also receive various tips and tricks for efficient use of the system and its capabilities.*

1:30–3:30 p.m. **Maestro for Business Staff**  
**HFSB 119X**  
**Tribbie Grimm-Sandner**  
*Maestro is a TAMUS electronic system that supports investigators and sponsored projects administrations. Session includes hands-on computer training on the recently updated version of Maestro, including frequently asked questions and time for Q&A. A Maestro account is required. Please contact Tribbie Grimm-Sandner at tdsandner@ag.tamu.edu to get your account set up.*

2:45–3:45 p.m. **Laserfiche Records Management**  
**Koldus 110/111**  
**Bob Hensz and Alyce Hlavaty**  
*This session will cover how to cut off a document, how to determine disposition eligibility, and the steps required to successfully dispose of a record once it has met the records-retention period in Laserfiche. It will also cover the forms and authorization needed prior to destroying state documents.*
Many thanks to the following:

2017 Texas A&M AgriLife Conference Planning Committee
Kelsey Agnew, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean
Cady Auckerman, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean
Chris Brown, Program Coordinator II, Texas A&M Forest Service
Lara Burhenn, Communications and Marketing Manager, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Michaela Catalena, Communications Manager, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean
John Chivvis, Associate Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Communications
Kim Dooley, Associate Dean for Academic Operations, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Angel Futrell, Alumni and Donor Relations Coordinator, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean
Stacy Morris, Chief of Staff, Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
Rebecca O’Neal, Events Coordinator, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean
Nancye Penn, Assistant to the Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Beverley Rose, Employee Development Manager, Texas A&M AgriLife Administrative Services
Rosemary Schoenfeld, Assistant to the Executive Associate Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Jackie Slovacek, Assistant to the Executive Associate Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Misty Vidrine, Program Coordinator, Corporate Relations, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Valerie Weber, Program Coordinator, Texas A&M AgriLife Administrative Services

Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean
Brittany Allen, Office Assistant, The AgriLife Center
Alberta Ortiz-Ganem, Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor and Dean
Gretchen Philipp, Program Assistant, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean

Texas A&M AgriLife Communications
Communications Specialists: Mohamed Chenkhlofi, Mark Cornelius, Audrey Guidry, Olga Kuchment, Ann Shurgin